(b) A statement (given below) giving details of each incident is placed on the Table of the House. In each case, appropriate diplomatic/legal action was taken.

Statement

Statement of cases of assault on Indian Diplomats abroad

1. Shri Shyam Kumar, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Brasilia was assaulted by three armed assailants on July 23, 1989 when they attempted to budgle his apartment Shri Kumar sustained serious injuries which eventually led to his death. The Brasilian authorities arrested two of the persons involved and charged them with murder.

2. The wife of an Attache in the High Commission of India, Islamabad was abducted at a market near her house in Islamabad on November 25, 1990. She was returned to her house after about two hours. She could not identify the abductors.

3. Shri J. F. Ribeiro, Indian Ambassador in Romania was shot and injured by Sikh terrorists in Bucharest on August 20, 1991 when he and his wife were out for a walk. The Romanian security personnel accompanying the Ambassador killed one of the assailants and captured two others. The two arrested assailants were later convicted by a military court and are undergoing imprisonment.

4. Shri D. B. Mathur, an Assistant in the Embassy of India, Tehran was assaulted and detained by the Iranian authorities on December 3, 1991. He was released on December 5 after the case was taken up with the Iranian Foreign office.

5. Shri S. K. Sharma, a Personal Assistant in the High Commission of India, Lagos was assaulted by two armed robbers on December 13, 1991 when he tried to prevent them from burgling his house. The local authorities registered a case but have not been able to apprehend the robbers so far.

6. Shri Sitaram, a Private Secretary in the Embassy of India, Tashkent was assaulted on the night of April 15 when armed intruders entered his house. Local authorities have not been able to trace them so far.

7. Shri Rajesh Mittal, a Counsellor in the High Commission of India, Islamabad was abducted on May 24 morning when he was proceeding to the Embassy. He was released after about 7 hours detention. Shri Mittal suffered serious injuries due to the third degree inflicted on him by the Pakistan Intelligence Agencies, who were responsible for the abduction.

Resumption of secretary level talks between India and Pakistan

1499. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan are resumed again; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, at their meeting at Rio de Janeiro on 14th June, 1992, agreed, that despite recent setbacks, the bilateral dialogue should be resumed. The dates for the next round of Foreign Secretary level talks are being determined through diplomatic channels.

Permission to Portugal to set up Consulate in Goa

1500. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: